



2009 Farm Revenues up 4 Percent from Previous Year

Farm gate revenues for 2009 totaled \$631.2 million compared to the revised 2008 level of \$605.6 million. Compared to the previous year, 10 of the 20 top ranked commodities were higher including seed crops, coffee, cattle, algae, bananas, eggs, milk, basil, sweet potatoes, and head cabbage.

The value of individually published diversified commodities rose 8 percent including a 26 percent increase for seed crops. The \$222.6 million seed revenue is a new record high as seed companies continue to expand their Hawaii based operations in response to continued demand for ethanol production. Farm gate value for cattle and calves rose 19 percent due to higher marketings in 2009. Fruit farm gate revenues rose 7 percent. Published vegetables and melons rose 2 percent, egg farm gate value rose 1 percent, and milk farm revenue rose by 37 percent which is attributed to higher milk production and price. Information for some agricultural commodities is suppressed to prevent disclosing individual operation information, but is included in the total revenue number.

Revenue declines include flowers and nursery products which fell 15 percent from the previous

year and 26 percent from the record \$108.7 million set in 2007. Growers commented on continued slower business due to the sluggish economy, crop losses attributed to volcanic emissions, and drought as contributing factors that caused this decline. Sixteen percent less macadamia nut production was the contributing factor for the 12 percent revenue decline. This was offset by a 3.0 cents per pound higher wet-in-shell farm price. Coffee farm gate value was up 6 percent due to higher prices.

The equivalent farm value of sugarcane (this does not include the processed value of raw sugar) was set at \$44.2 million, unchanged from 2008.

Farm level values shown in this publication are an important measure of production agriculture, but they do not truly reflect the total contribution of agriculture to the State and county economies. For the better understanding of the overall picture, refer to "Agriculture's Contribution to Hawaii's Economy 2005" - (CTAHR Economic Issue EI 13, Jan 2008) a publication prepared jointly by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.